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Brief Information on
ROSE CHAFER and ITS CONTROL.

Character and Extent of Injury and Evidence of Infestation.

About the time of blooming in the spring, the blossoms and, later, the foliage of roses and many other ornamental plants, besides fruits and berries, are often found attacked and rapidly destroyed by enormous numbers of light brownish, long-spiney-legged, clumsy beetles. This beetle is known as the "rose chafer" or "rose bug" and is most common in the New England and Central States, particularly so where the soil is light and sandy.

Seasonal History and Habits.

Each female beetle lays her eggs preferably in sandy soil. The small, white grubs feed on the roots of grass and other plants. By fall they are almost full grown and burrow below the frost line, where the winter is spent. In the spring the grubs ascend toward the surface and soon transform to the beetle stage. There is thus but one generation annually. The injury to the flowers and foliage is done during the three or four weeks from the time it makes its appearance.

Remedies.

The rose-chafer is an exceedingly difficult insect to combat successfully. When it occurs in moderate numbers, lead arsenate, at the rate of 5 to 6 pounds to 50 gallons of water may prove reasonably effective, but when it occurs in great numbers, the plants are reinfested as fast as the insects are killed.

Where practicable, hand-picking or brushing or jarring the beetles into vessels containing kerosene is the most satisfactory. This must be done twice a day (morning and evening) during the period of severe infestation.

Highly valued plants are best protected by covering with mosquito bar or similar loosely woven material or cylinders of fly screen, after all the beetles on it are removed.

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